

VZCZCXRO1080

OO RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHIHL RUEHKUK

DE RUEHRH #1577 2960750

ZNY CCCCC ZZH

O 220750Z OCT 08

FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9391

INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE 0715

RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH IMMEDIATE 9804

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9392

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIYADH 001577

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/20/2018

TAGS: PREL PGOV XF IZ

SUBJECT: SAUDI EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD "LINKED TO SECURITY"

REF: SECSTATE 110380

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission David Rundell
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) In view of recent statements by Saudi Crown Prince Sultan reiterating Saudi Arabia's intention to open an embassy in Baghdad "soon," Ambassador Fraker provided reftel points on security and logistical support from Embassy Baghdad for new Arab embassies in Iraq to Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal during an October 18 meeting. Prince Saud told the Ambassador that setting a date to open a Saudi embassy in Baghdad was linked to security, which he said was "the only reason for the delay." He said the SAG considered Egypt's recent movement towards reopening its Embassy in Iraq as "very important." Ambassador Fraker pressed for details about the process required to finalize the decision, and Saud explained that naming an Ambassador hinged on a recommendation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. No further approvals would be necessary, since the appointment of ambassadors was solely up to the King. Ambassador Fraker underscored the importance that the USG attaches to Arab engagement in Iraq, and urged Saud to take a decision as soon as possible.

FRAKER